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The Regional Archives System of the National Archives

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YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO WASHINGTON, D.C., TO VISIT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. The National Archives has regional archives in or near Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Fort Worth, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, and Anchorage. They are national resources in local settings.

In 1969 the Archivist of the United States established a regional archives system to make regionally-created historically valuable federal records accessible to the public. Each regional archives in the system has historical records from federal courts and from regional offices of federal agencies in the geographic areas each serves. This leaflet lists the regional archives and areas they serve, and describes their services and programs.

Records

Uniqueness is the hallmark of regional archives records. They are evidence, not duplicated elsewhere, of the impact of federal government policies at the local and regional level. The records are preserved because of both their permanent legal or historical value, and their importance to the continuing work of the U.S. government. They are available to private citizens and public officials alike. Citizens settling legal claims, genealogists researching family history, scholars writing local, state, or national history, and federal employees engaged in government programs will find unique resources at each regional archives.

The records are a resource of encyclopedic diversity. Subjects covered in the records of the District Courts of the United States and the United States Courts of Appeals include the sinking of the SS *Titanic* (1912), the desegregation of public schools (ca. 1954), farm foreclosures during the Great Depression (1930s), court cases argued by Abraham Lincoln and other famed attorneys, and the restoration of Native Americans' treaty rights. Stories of housing shortages during World War II, the development of Chicago's lakefront, and construction of coastal lighthouses are told in records of the Office of the Housing Expediter, Office of the Chief of Engineers, and U.S. Coast Guard. Popular, family, and social history can be researched in Indian School census reports, Chinese immigration case files, and naturalization papers, including some for Hollywood stars.

Microfilm

The regional archives expand research opportunities to topics beyond local and regional boundaries with their extensive holdings of National Archives microfilm publications. Some 50,000 microfilm rolls are available at each microfilm research room across the country.

land and other natural resources, and war and military service are among the topics which can be researched using microfilm. Regional archives microfilm holdings also include federal population censuses for all states, 1790 to 1910, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Freedman's Bureau records. Federal population censuses for 1920 will open for research in 1992.

Guides to Regional Holdings

Guides to each regional archives' records and microfilm holdings are available free of charge. Requests for these two separate publications should be addressed to the individual regional archives listed. Titles vary by region: for example, *Guide to Records in the National Archives-New England Region* or *Microfilm Publications in the National Archives-Pacific Sierra Region*.

Public Programs

Public programs supplement regional archives research and archival services. Each regional archives gives tours of its facility; presents workshops on archival research, genealogy, or related subjects; hosts exhibits; and plans other special programs to commemorate historical events. These programs are often sponsored jointly with colleges or universities, historical societies, genealogical groups, museums and other archives.

Volunteers and Gift Fund

Each regional archives has a volunteer program and a gift fund. Volunteers have opportunities to learn more about archives by assisting staff in various aspects of archival work. The gift fund permits purchases, not otherwise possible, of microfilm and other publications valuable to researchers.

Agency Services

The regional archives provide access to the historical records that an agency previously transferred to a regional archives. In cooperation with other offices of the National Archives and Records Administration, the regional archives assist field offices of federal agencies in identifying valuable historical records for transfer to a regional archives.

Hours

The regional archives are open for research weekdays, except federal holidays, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Contact individual regional archives for information on additional research hours and specific public programs.

A National Resource in a Local Setting:

The Regional Archives System

- **National Archives-New England Region**
  380 Trapelo Road
  Waltham, MA 02154
  617-647-8100; FTS 839-7100
  Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,
  New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

- **National Archives-Northeast Region**
  Building 22 - Military Ocean Terminal
  Bayonne, NJ 07002-5388
  201-823-7252
  New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico,
  the Virgin Islands

- **National Archives-Mid Atlantic Region**
  9th and Market Streets, Room 1350
  Philadelphia, PA 19107
  215-597-3000; FTS 597-3000
  Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia,
  West Virginia

- **National Archives-Southeast Region**
  1557 St. Joseph Avenue
  East Point, GA 30344
  404-763-7477; FTS 246-7477
  Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky,
  Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,
  Tennessee

- **National Archives-Great Lakes Region**
  7358 South Pulaski Road
  Chicago, IL 60629
  312-581-7816; FTS 353-0162
  Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio,
  Wisconsin

- **National Archives-Central Plains Region**
  2312 East Bannister Road
  Kansas City, MO 64131
  816-926-6272; FTS 926-6272
  Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

- **National Archives-Southwest Region**
  501 West Felix Street, P.O. Box 6216
  Ft. Worth, TX 76115
  817-334-5525; FTS 334-5525
  Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

- **National Archives-Rocky Mountain Region**
  Building 48-Denver Federal Center
  Denver, CO 80225-0307
  303-236-0817; FTS 776-0817
  Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

- **National Archives-Pacific Sierra Region**
  1000 Commodore Drive
  San Bruno, CA 94066
  415-876-9009; FTS 470-9009
  Northern California, Hawaii, Nevada (except Clark County), American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

- **National Archives-Pacific Southwest Region**
  24000 Avila Road, P.O. Box 6719
  Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-6719
  714-643-4241; FTS 796-4241
  Southern California, Arizona, and Clark County, Nevada

- **National Archives-Pacific Northwest Region**
  6125 Sand Point Way NE
  Seattle, WA 98115
  206-526-6507; FTS 392-6507
  Idaho, Oregon, Washington

- **National Archives-Alaska Region**
  654 West Third Avenue
  Anchorage, AK 99501
  907-271-2441; FTS 868-2441
  Alaska

Hours: 8 to 4 weekdays except federal holidays. Contact individual regions for additional hours.

Records

- federal district, circuit, and territorial court records
- federal executive agency records from field offices carrying out federal programs at the local and regional level

Research Services

- textual and microfilm research rooms
- extensive National Archives microfilm publications
- research assistance on-site, and by mail and telephone
- reference library of aids to research in the National Archives
- distribution and sale of selected National Archives forms and publications
- certified copies (for legal use) of regional archives documents
- photoduplication of regional archives historical records

Public Programs

- workshops
- scholarly conferences
- exhibits
- film showings
- special programs to commemorate historical events
- volunteer opportunities

Services to Organizations

- speakers and programs on selected topics
- student intern programs
- guidance on archival practices and procedures
- tours

The NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) establishes policies and procedures for managing U.S. government records. The National Archives assists federal agencies in documenting their activities, administering records management programs, scheduling records, and retiring noncurrent records to federal records centers. The agency also accessions, arranges, describes, preserves, and makes available to the public the historically valuable records of the three branches of government; manages the Presidential libraries and regional archives systems; assists the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in its grant program for state and local records and edited publications of the papers of prominent Americans; and publishes the laws, regulations, and Presidential and other public documents.

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